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THE GENUS HUSNOTIELLA CARDOT

R. S. WILLIAMS.

This genus of the Pottiaceae was based on a moss collected by C. G. Pringle in the State of Mexico where it was found growing on walls of masonry. It was also collected by Barnes and Land on masonry and brick walls and on or near the brick borders of a flower bed with more or less earth about it. This last collection is called a form of the others and has rather longer, straighter leaves. The genus is described as having no peristome and is compared with *Gyroweisia*, from which it is certainly distinct, as pointed out, by the revolute leaf border. Two species are included, *H. revoluta* and *H. Palmeri*, both of which on careful examination show a more or less developed peristome, consisting of a rather delicate membrane scarcely projecting above the rim of capsule and often bearing irregular teeth extending to a little above the more or less persistent annulus. The peristome is much like that of *Didymodon mexicanus*, but not quite so well developed, and in view of this fact and also that the leaves are just about those of a *Didymodon* I scarcely see how the genus can be maintained as distinct. Moreover *H. Palmeri* seems to be only a slightly better developed form of *H. revoluta*, with, on the average, a little longer, more pointed leaves. In both collections specimens occur with leaves precisely alike both in size and leaf apex; cross sections of leaves also show no differences.

I believe the plants should be known as follows:

Didymodon revolutus (Card.) R. S. W. COMB. NOV.

Husnotiella revoluta Card. Rev. Bryol. **36:** 71. 1909.

Husnotiella Palmeri Card. Rev. Bryol. **37:** 121. 1910.

In this connection I may add that *Didymodon stenopyxis* Card. Rev. Bryol. **36:** 84. 1909, is certainly not distinct from *D. aeneus* (C. M.) Besch. Both, sometimes at least, have dioicous flowers.

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN. January 2, 1913.

A MOSS "WASHING MACHINE"

H. S. JEWETT, M. D.

"Praeparire sauber! Rasen, denen viel Boden anhaftet, sind an Ort und Stelle auszuwaschen." (Limpricht Laubmoose, **I:** 70).

The frequently occurring cases, in which it was impossible to carry out the above sound advice, with the resulting pats of mud, where there should have been a beautiful moss specimen, caused me to seek a more certain method of getting rid of the dirt; one that would require neither squeezing nor much handling, thus obviating mutilation and at same time be applicable to the most delicate plants. In this attempt I have been so successful that I now publish it and give to all lovers of mosses the right to make, use, or improve upon my idea without other cost to them than that of making or having it made for them.

The principle is a combination of a support for the moss and a stream of spray to remove the dirt. It is made as follows: Prepare two shallow sieves, of any size desired (mine are eight inches square), of copper screen, flyscreen of 14 meshes to the inch is probably the best and is procurable everywhere. Make two frames of hard wood, one-fourth to three-eighths inch thick by one inch wide. Bevel one edge (the one which is to become the inside of the frame) and fasten the screen to the wider side of the frame, so that the frame slopes inward to the screen, thus avoiding corners where loose plants can hide and making the screen more easily cleaned. The object of the frame is to prevent loose plants from floating away, and also to make the screen easy to handle. For very small mosses the screen should be finer, thirty, forty or fifty meshes to the inch or still finer if desired, though minute mosses must be washed with great care or they will vanish through the screen with the dirt.

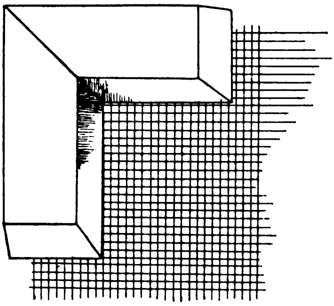
FIG I.—Detail of corner of screen reduced.

Next get a "spray nozzle" and have it fitted to one end of a piece of strong rubber tubing or garden hose, the other end of which is fitted for being attached to the city water supply faucet, either by screwing on, or slipping over and tying. Mine I fitted to a garden hose-coupling so that I can use it as a hose nozzle or screw it on to any faucet fitted for the attaching of hose.

There are many spray nozzles in the market, intended for use with machines for plant spraying against insect depredations, for whitewashing, etc., and they are all essentially the same, but as they are intended for use with liquids containing sediment the opening at the point is too large for our purpose as the spray is too coarse and cone of spray is too wide. The Lowell Specialty Company, of Lowell, Michigan, sends out nozzles with its two-gallon hand tank apparatus which are very easily changed so as to be adapted to this purpose. The distal end of these nozzles is flat with a hole in the center; have this hole closed by soldering a piece of 14 gauge sheet brass over it, then drill a new hole in the center with a number sixty-five twist drill and carefully remove from both sides of the hole any burrs that were left by the drill, and the nozzle is ready to be fitted for attaching to your faucet. The nozzle thus changed throws a very narrow cone of fine spray. The moss is laid on a screen, soil side upwards, and held under the spray—the nearer you hold it to the nozzle the more concentrated is its action, the further away from the nozzle the more gentle. When leaves, pebbles, twigs, etc. make their appearance they must be removed with forceps as they prevent the spray from reaching the dirt under them. When the bottom is clean, lay the other screen over the moss, turn over and hold under the spray, when the moss will leave the first screen and you finish the moss from the top. After washing both sides place the moss on any absorbing pad, and when the water has been absorbed it is ready for final arrangement and drying.

The dirt may be thus removed from patches of protonema bearing small mosses like *Ephemerum* leaving it like a piece of fine green veiling, but minute gregarious mosses must be washed with great care on a fine screen.

The apparatus can be used in any bathroom, by doing the washing over a basin or other wide dish and emptying the basin into a bucket as soon as it gets full. After standing a few minutes the water can be decanted from the mud into the water closet bowl, and at the end of the work the mud carried out and emptied into the ash can. I have thus used mine over the stationary tubs in the laundry.

Old herbarium specimens can be cleansed almost as well as fresh ones by first softening them thoroughly in a basin of warm water; but! if fruited and the operculum is still on the capsules, remember!! *that if you wet them they will probably cast their operculi,* hence it is best *not to wash or wet operculate mosses after they have once become dry.*

Sterile or non-operculated mosses will not be injured by the process.

DAYTON, OHIO.

COLLECTING MOSSES IN FLORIDA

A. J. GROUT

It was my good fortune to spend Holy Week in April, 1911, in Florida, and my still better fortune to spend it with one of our members, Mr. Samuel C. Hood, at Orange City. Mr. Hood has for some time been in charge of the government food and drug plant experimental farm at Orange City and knows the ways of the country thoroughly and, in addition, he put himself, his motor boat and his horse at my disposal. This made it easy to accomplish much more than would have been possible otherwise. My plans included a visit to another member who has done notable work in bryology, Mr. Severin Rapp, at Sanford, but unavoidable circumstances prevented.

There are two quite distinct sets of conditions, each of which produces a moss flora peculiar to itself. The greater portion of the country in this vicinity consists of sand plains, originally covered with long leaf pine, but now largely grown up to scrub of various sorts. Mosses in this area are few and usually scanty.

Along the St. Johns River and its tributaries with their low lying mucky shores and innumerable connecting swamps and "dead rivers" or lagoons, there is a rich moss flora of an entirely different type.

In the sand plains one finds an abundance of *Ditrichum*, especially *D. pallidum* (Schreb) Hampe. and *Weisia viridula* (L.) Hedw., much of which is the var. *longiseta* (L. & J.), for common northern species are often so modified here as to be scarcely recognizable yet the intergrading forms between the north and south